

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Previously Presented): A connecting structure of a pipe connected to a passage formed in a member, comprising:

a projection portion that projects from the pipe radially outwardly;

a recess portion that is provided at an open end of the passage formed in the member and that receives the projection portion of the pipe,

wherein the recess portion is defined by a peripheral wall portion that includes a thin-shaped deformed portion that is defined by a groove formed in an outer end face of the peripheral wall portion,

wherein the deformed portion is inclined and curved inwardly toward the recess portion such that an inner surface of the deformed portion is formed in a concave shape and an outer surface of the deformed portion is formed in a convex shape,

wherein the deformed portion is positioned axially within an outer end surface of the peripheral wall portion and is engaged with the projection portion, and

wherein the projection portion of the pipe, which is inserted into the opening end of the passage in the member, abuts the inner surface of the deformed portion.

3. (Previously Presented): The connecting structure of a pipe according to claim 2,

wherein the projection portion has an annular shape on an outer periphery of the pipe,

wherein the recess portion has an annular shape on an outer periphery of the passage in the member, and

wherein the peripheral wall portion is deformed inwardly in a continuous annular shape.

4. (Previously Presented): The connecting structure of a pipe according to claim 2,

wherein the projection portion has an annular shape on an outer periphery of the pipe,

wherein the recess portion has an annular shape on an outer periphery of the passage in the member, and

wherein the peripheral wall portion is bent and deformed inwardly at intermittent sections in a circumferential direction.

5. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended): A connecting method for connecting a pipe to a passage formed in a member, comprising:

a first step of inserting the pipe in the passage formed in the member and receiving a flange portion formed on an outer periphery of the pipe in a recess portion formed at an open end of the passage in the member and that receives a projection portion of the pipe, the projection portion projecting from the pipe radially outwardly; and

a second step of, while cutting a peripheral wall portion of the recess portion in a thin shape, bending and deforming the cut portion of the peripheral wall portion inwardly to engage the inwardly bent and deformed peripheral wall portion with the projection portion,

wherein the recess portion is defined by a peripheral wall portion that includes a thin-shaped deformed portion that is defined by a groove formed in an outer end face of the peripheral wall portion,

wherein the deformed portion is inclined and curved inwardly toward the recess portion such that an inner surface of the deformed portion is formed in a concave shape and an outer surface of the deformed portion is formed in a convex shape,

wherein the deformed portion is positioned axially within an outer end surface of the peripheral wall portion and is engaged with the projection portion, and

wherein the projection portion of the pipe, which is inserted into the opening end of the passage in the member, abuts the inner surface of the deformed portion.

6. (Withdrawn): The connecting method according to claim 5, wherein the second step is achieved by pressure-piecing a blade portion that has an inclined face portion into a peripheral edge of the recess portion.

7. (Withdrawn): The connecting method according to claim 6, wherein the flange portion and the recess portion are annular, and wherein the blade portion is continuously formed in an annular shape.

8. (Withdrawn): The connecting method according to claim 6, wherein the flange portion and the recess portion are annular, and wherein the blade portion is formed in plural sections intermittently in a circumferential direction.

9. - 17. (Canceled).

18. (Previously Presented) A connecting structure of a pipe connected to a passage formed in a member, comprising:

a projection portion projects from the pipe radially outwardly; and

a recess portion that is provided at an open end of the passage formed in the member and that receives the projection portion of the pipe;

wherein the recess portion is defined by a peripheral wall portion that includes a thin-shaped deformed portion, the deformed portion is defined by a groove formed in an outer end face of the peripheral wall portion at a distance from the recess portion and is deformed radially inward with respect to the recess portion,

wherein the deformed portion is inclined and curved inwardly toward the recess portion such that the outer face of the deformed portion is formed in a convex shape, and the inner face of the deformed portion is engaged with and abuts the projection portion.

19. (Previously Presented) The connecting structure according to claim 18, wherein the inner face of the deformed portion is formed in a concave shape.